THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER): (a) to (c) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of State Governments for creating sports facilities in various places including Universities/Colleges. But with effect from 1.4.2005, the Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the State sector. During this period, this Ministry has not sanctioned any project of Uttarakhand State for the construction of an indoor stadium in Ranikhet.

Warning bell on coal shortage

200. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal Ministry has rung a warning bell after number of coal based power projects face acute shortage of black diamond and sought Power Ministry's help to ensure import of 20 million MT of coal in consultation with Railways, Shipping and Surface Transport and agencies involved;

(b) whether Coal Ministry communicated to the Power Ministry that large number of plants have been facing depletion in their stock at faster pace; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to meet the coal shortage and to what extent Government's efforts to obtain the coal in improving the power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no acute shortage of coal for power utilities in Inida. As against the Annual Action Plan (AAP) target of supply of 249.97 million tonnes of coal to power utilities by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during April, 2007 to January, 2008 the actual supply during this period was 255.71 million tonnes (Provisional) showing materialization of about 102%. However, due to lesser materialization as against quarterly planned movement of coal on account of loading/ unloading and movement constraints, short-term production constraints in the linked source etc., there has been depletion of stocks at power plants. In anticipation of this, it was decided by the Government that Ministry of Power would draw up a plan to import 20 million tonnes of coal by power utilities in 2007-08 to improve availability of coal and build up coal stocks at power house end. Moreover, due to various factors like increase in Plant Load Factor (PLF) and increase in specific coal consumption, there has been increase in consumption of coal by power plants. Further, keeping in view the expected power generation target and projected coal production and also with a view to build up coal stocks at the power plants end, Ministry of Power has been advised to retain the current year's target of 20 million tonnes for import during 2008-09 also by power utilities.

Pilling up of coal with CIL

†201. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of coal is pilling up with the ancillary units of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) due to less consumption of coal than its extraction;

(b) whether it is a fact that the supply of coal to the National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Orissa from Mahanadi coal area has reduced from 15,000 tonnes per day to 9000 tes;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether NALCO have warned of lay-off because of this; and

(d) the plan to tackle the mismatch of supply despite such huge stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. As per the policy of Coal India Limited, coal companies can maintain a stock requirement to one month production. Total stock as on 18.2.2008 was 34.539 million tonnes (Provisional) which is marginally lesser than the prescribed quantity.

(b) to (d) The supply of coal to the unit of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Angul, Orissa was affected during July-September, 2007 due to adverse geo-mining conditions at Bharatpur Project, resulting in reduction of production and frequent law and order problems in nearby villages in view of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) problems. The shortfall in coal despatches through Merry-Go-Round (MGR) was compensated from other mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and Bharat Cooking Coal Limited (BCCL). However, the total despatches to the units of NALCO in Orissa from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the period April, 2007 to January, 2008 was 4.409 million tonnes, which work out to an average of about 14400 tonnes per day. During February, 2008 (till 18th February), the despatches worked out to an average of 18288 tonnes per day.

Ministry of Coal has not received any representation recently from M/s. NALCO about proposed layoff due to non availability of coal.

Coal block for captive use

202. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserves of coal in billion tonnes available in the country and the number of blocks allocated during 2007 to Central and State PSUs:

(b) whether the Government is hopeful of captive production of 104 mt. of coal outside domain of coal PSUs during 2011-12 as against 25 mt. expected during 2007-08; and

(c) if so, whether any block is there for captive use by Public and Private sector companies so far allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per available information with Geological Survey of India (GSI), the total geological resources of coal available in the country is 257.38 billion tonnes as on 1.4.2007. Total geological resources of 8779 million tonnes in 34 coal blocks were allocated to Central and State Public Sector Undertakings during the period January, 2007 to December, 2007.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Blocks have been allocated to Public Sector companies both through Government Dispensation route for commercial use and through the Screening Committee route for captive consumption. Out of 181 coal blocks allocated till 31st January, 2008, 120 coal blocks with a total geological resources of about 21641.73 million tonnes have been allocated to public and private sector companies through the Screening Committee route for captive use only.

Allotment of coalfields to private parties

203. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allot vast areas of coal fields to private parties for converting coal to petroleum;